

REMARKS

Claims 1-95 are pending. Claims 1-79 and 83-95 are allowed.

Claims 80-82 stand rejected as anticipated by Fajardo (U.S. 6,445,862).

We have amended claim 80 to better distinguish Farjardo. As currently amended, claim 80 recites that "the fiber has a core and a dielectric confinement region surrounding the core, the core having an average refractive index smaller than that of the highest index constituent of the dielectric confinement region."

In contrast, the refractive index of the core in the fiber described in Farjardo is higher than that of any of the surrounding dielectric regions. For example, Farjardo states "DCF 40 includes a low index cladding region 42 formed around a a high index fiber core or fiber core region 44." (Col. 5, lines 14-15.) Also see, for example, the refractive index profiles shown in Figures 3A-3C and 6.

Claims 81 and 82 depend from claim 80 and distinguish Farjardo for at least the same reasons.

In view of the above we ask that the application be allowed.

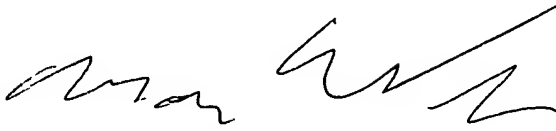
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Enclosed is a \$55 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/13/04

  
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**\*See attached document certifying that Marc M. Wefers has limited recognition to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office under 37 C.F.R. § 10.9(b).**